(c) whether Government have taken any steps to maintain the level of obstruction in networks as per the prescribed standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) TRAI has expressed general concern over the level of congestion between the networks of various operators as it has direct bearing on the quality of service and not particularly regarding the networks of Bharati, Reliance and other private telecom companies and public sector company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

(b) As per the Regulation on quality of service for Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, 2005 dated 01.07.2005, the benchmark for the parameter Point of Interconnection (Pol) congestion between the networks is 0.5%. TRAI monitors the performance of Cellular Mobile Service Providers against this benchmark on a monthly basis through congesion reports received from service providers. These reports are submitted on a service area was basis and the data is consolidated for the service area as a whole. Hence separate data on urban and rural areas/State-wise is not maintained by TRAI. Obstructions (congestion) specifically within the networks (intra-network congestion between exchanges) of various operators namely Bharati, Reliance and other private telecom companies and public sector company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., are not monitored.

(c) Inter-connection provisioning is a continuous process. For reduction of inter-network congestion between networks of various operators, the Government has asked private telecom operators and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to take various steps which *inter-alia* include holding of regular meetings, streamlining of the procedure for provisioning of Pols in time bound manner, to provide forecast for demand of Pols in advance to enable BSNL to plan necessary equipment where feasible so as to reduce the technically non-feasible cases.

Mobile Number Portability facility

2124. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce Mobile

Number Portability facility in the mobile telephone segment shortly in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mobile phone service providers are not enthusiastic about the plan as it involves heavy investment and diversion of funds earmarked for rural area penetration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on "Mobile Number Portability" on 08-03-2006.

(c) and (d) These recommendations were finalized by TRAI through a consultation process. During Construction, some of the mobile operators had indicated that cost of implementation of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) would be very high and this is not appropriate time to introduce Mobile Number Portability because the operators are in the process of expansion of their network in rural areas. The TRAI's recommendations are under consideration.

Package for ITI

2125. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITI Ltd. the first Public Sector Undertaking set up in 1948 was now in the throes of a battle for survival;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering to provide a package to ITI to bail out the PSU from losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Company is passing through a severe financial crunch, leading to shortage of working capital and rapid